THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 08, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION

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In a bizarre move teams play with masks

Russian and Canadian women's ice hockey teams decided to play with masks after Covid test results got delayed. After both teams took part in the pre-game warmup, the Canadians stayed in the locker room awaiting Russian results. Adding to Canada's concerns were that Russian players were testing positive before and after the team's 0-5 loss to the US on Saturday| P15

PM: CONGRESS SOWING SEEDS OF SEPARATISM

Accuses it of adopting divide-and-rule policy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday accused the Congress of attempting to sow seeds of separatism by trying to instigate people of Tamil Nadu and other states, and by propounding a misleading notion that India was not one nation but merely a union of states.

Replying to the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, Modi said India has been one nation since time immemorial in spite of different cultures. He quoted Vishnu Purana to say since ancient India, the land on the north of oceans and south of snowy Himalayas has been called Bharat. He also cited verses in Tamil by poet Subramania Bharati in support of this argument.

Modi accused the Congress of adopting the British strategy of divide and rule, saying "It had become leader of the *tukde -tukde* gang." Referring to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's statement that India is not described as a nation in the Constitution but as a Union of states, Modi said, "the House was insulted when it was said that the word nation was not mentioned in the Constitution." He said the notion of a nation is not a mere arrangement to rule; "nation for us is a living soul."

Modi said that the statements and actions of the Congress show it has resigned itself to staying out of power for the next 100 years. Even after losing power in so many states, "neither has your ego gone, nor your ecosystem has allowed you to shed your arrogance."

Accusing the Congress of "indulging in blind opposition", he said "blind opposition is an insult to democracy."

Modi said India has taken giant strides towards becoming Atmanirbhar. "We are promoting domestic industry by giving push to Make in India in every sector." Startups are mushrooming and the number of unicorns is set to hit a century. These startups, he said, are creating a large number of jobs. While there were only 500 startups till 2014, but now there are 60,000 of them.

As for defence procurement, "Bulk of the purchases will now be made from Indian manufacturers, he said. But in the past no attempt was made to promote the domestic industry in the defence sector. Emphasis was laid on imports. We all know why... Make in India means no commission, no corruption. That is why they are attacking it," Modi charged.

Extend GST relief by 3 yrs: Bommai to FM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

Karnataka sought the Centre to extend GST compensation till 2024-25. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Monday, made the appeal, considering that the state is only now easing restrictions on businesses.

"The timeframe for the state to avail GST compensation is expected to end in March this year. But due to Covid, we've not been able to mobilise adequate resources. An extension is necessary," Bommai told Sitharaman.

Bommai said that many projects related to the state were discussed. "I met most of the MPs from Karnataka, including Sitharaman. She assured us of funds to implement the projects for Karnataka. Also, the 15th Finance Commission grants, which have been sanctioned, will be released soon," he said.

He appealed to Sitharaman for a Rs 5,030 crore grant to take up development works in North Karnataka. Under the Rs 1 lakh crore interest-free loan announced by the Centre to states, Karnataka is likely to get Rs 3,800-4,000 crore, he added.

CM Basavaraj Bommai meets Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Monday

He met Railway Minister Ashwani Vaishnaw and discussed the shortage of rakes to transport coal. Vaishnaw said he will direct officials in the Railway Board.

On his meeting with Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Bommai said, "I sought special grants to develop health infrastructure and he agreed." He also met Power Minister RK Singh over conditions imposed on state escoms to avail loans. Bommai said some clarification is needed and he will discuss it with state officials.

AS HIJAB ROW SPREADS ACROSS STATE, CM MEETS AMIT SHAH

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

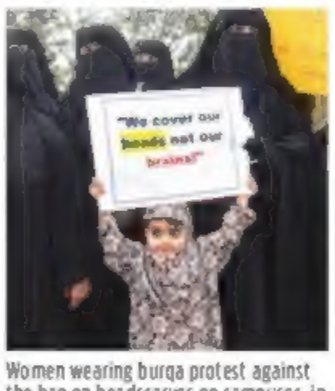
AS the hijab row raged across the state, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who is in New Delhi, met Union Home Minister on Monday evening. Sources said that during the meeting that lasted about 15 minutes, the hijab row and much-talked-about ministry expansion may have also come up for discussion.

Bommai requested people of the state to maintain harmony and appealed to them to wait for directions from the Karnataka High Court, which is hearing a petition on the issue on Tuesday. The petition has been filed by a student of the Government Pre-University Women's College in Udupi, questioning the ban on headscarves inside classrooms.

Bommai said that students from schools and pre-university colleges should wear uniforms as specified under the Karnataka Education Act. The government invoked the Act on Saturday, saying the education department and managements of private institutions will prescribe uniforms.

The controversy over banning hijabs, which started at the Government Pre-University Women's College in Udupi, has now spread to Bengaluru, Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, Belagavi, Kolar, Shivamogga and Mysuru with students protesting for and against the ban.

Adding to the controversy, a Government PU college in Kundapur allowed students wearing hijab on the campus, but made them sit in a separate classroom. P4



Women wearing burqa protest against the ban on headscarves on campuses, in Bengaluru on Monday | VINOD KUMAR T

FORUM HITS OUT

The National Federation of Indian Women has condemned the State Government for preventing Muslim girls from wearing the hijab. P4

EXPRESS READ

Karnataka to sequence 10K genome samples

Bengaluru: Government and private RT-PCR laboratories in Karnataka, approved by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have been instructed to genome sequence 10,000 samples of the SARS-CoV-2 virus over the next 20 days. The labs have to select 10 per cent of of their daily samples for special whole genome sequencing to understand whether the virus has undergone mutations | P3

Santishree Pandit is 1st woman VC of JNU

New Delhi: The Ministry of Education on Monday appointed Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit as the vice-chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, making her the first woman to hold the post. The 59-year-old Pandit is also an alumna of JNU where she pursued her MPhil as well as PhD in International Relations | P9

SEARCH IS ON

7 army men missing after avalanche

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

SEVEN Indian Army personnel are missing after they were struck by an avalanche in Arunachal Pradesh on Sunday.

The soldiers were part of a patrol team and were hit by the snowslide in the high-altitude area of Kameng sector, a defence spokesperson said on Monday. The avalanche-struck area is 20 km north-east of Bumla in Tawang district near the China border.

Search and rescue operations are currently underway, said the defence spokesperson adding that specialised teams have been airlifted to the area, which has been witnessing inclement weather with heavy snowfall for the past few days.

"Praying for the safety of Army personnel hit by the avalanche in Arunachal and hope that they be rescued safely as early as possible. Indian Army has always stood by us whenever in difficulties. We earnestly pray that no harm comes to our brave Jawans," tweeted Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu.

NATIONWIDE	FEB 6	FEB 7
Fresh cases	1,07,474	83,876
Recoveries	2,13,246	1,99,054
Deaths	865	895
KARNATAKA	FEB 6	FEB 7
Fresh cases	8,425	6,151
Recoveries	19,800	16,802
Deaths	50	49

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

February 6: 24,05,652 doses

February 7: 30,48,778 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 1,70,15,10,160

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- MBA in Agribusiness Management (2 Yrs)
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- Master of Hospital Administration (2 Yrs)
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Google play

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27 MINUTES OF INFECTION PROTECTION OR 25 HOURS? DEPENDS ON THE MASK YOU DECIDE TO WEAR.

Just like the virus, masks have variants too. One of the most powerful mask variants is the scientifically designed N95 mask, or its comparable BIS certified FFP2 mask.

If we all wear these masks, we can stay protected from viruses (including the fast spreading variant) for up to 25 hours*, even in the presence of an infected person. With cloth masks, this duration drops to a mere 27 minutes*.

FFP2 masks have electrostatically charged layers that ordinary masks do not have. It's no wonder that it is recommended to use FFP2 or N95 masks.

TIME IT TAKES TO TRANSMIT AN INFECTIOUS DOSE OF COVID-19

PERSON NOT INFECTED IS WEARING

PERSON INFECTED IS WEARING	NOTHING	CLOTH MASK	SURGICAL MASK	N95 MASK (10%)
NOTHING	15 MIN	20 MIN	30 MIN	2.5 HR
CLOTH MASK	20 MIN	27 MIN	40 MIN	3.3 HR
SURGICAL MASK	30 MIN	40 MIN	60 MIN	5 HR
N95 MASK (10%)	2.5 HR	3.3 HR	5 HR	25 HR

*Provided both wear N95 or its comparable FFP2 masks correctly.
#See table. From ACGIH® Pandemic Task Force Fact Sheet: Workers Need Respirators.